WITH CURIOUS GLIMPSES INTO THE WRITING OF HISTORY.

PROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDNT OF THE TRIBUNE. LONDON, December 8.

The daughter-in-law of the late Sir Archibald Alison has edited his autobiography, and Messrs. Blackwood have published it in two wellprinted and far too costly octavo volumes, under the title, "Some Account of My Life and Writings." A journal it is not. Alison seems to have written out his story at odd moments, but in a form intended to be final and intended for publication. His will directed that it should be published as soon as his son, the present Sir Archibald, a successful soldier, should think advisable. The son being too busy with conquering Egyptians and with other professional occupations, Lady Alison has undertaken the pieus duty. A few passages have been omitted, but the autobiography appears substantially as it came from the author's pen. People who expected piquant gossip will be disappointed in the book. A vast number of persons are named and written about, but almost always with discretion, and seldom with much insight into character. There are anecdotes; there is page upon page of weary prosing, as in the "History." There is a good account of some really interesting passages in Alison's life. But what will most interest those interested in literary work is his narrative of the composition of his history, and of his life in connection with it. This is not told as a whole, but is scattered up and down his pages, whence it is well enough worth collecting and putting together.

Alison's account of the beginning of his history is one of the most singular confessions on record. He had been engaged on a book about Population, in answer, as he fancled, to Malthus. This he finished on December 22, 1828, and flattered himself that he might henceforward treat "literature" as an amusement or relaxation. Mrs. Alison said no, he would never be happy without writing. After a day or two he agreed with her; after a week's rest he resumed his labors, "and on January 1, 1829, the first three pages of my History of the French Revolution were written!" That was the amount of study, reflection and preparation which Alison thought necessary for beginning a historical work which, in respect of bulk, is certamly one of the greatest now extant. Some further explanation of this headlong zeal is given later. Alison assigns three motives as influential with him in undertaking this work; 1. enthusiasm for the "military events of the war"; 2. sympathy with the sufferings of Louis XVI. in the Temple; 3. his desire to dish the Whigs. This last reason he veils at first under the more decorous phrase which describes his clear perception of a coming social and political convulsion in England, which he hoped to arrest by a picture of the horrors which attended the Revolution in France. But a little later Alison says blurtly that his history was a great effort made in favor of the Conservative cause at the period of its lowest depression. Lord Beaconsfield summed the matter up with his usual point: "A history in twenty volumes to prove that Providence was on the side of the Tories."

The immense popularity which Alison's History achieved, and for some time maintained, has long since faded away, and the book has fa len into deserved neglect. People will not forever continue reading a Tory pamphlet in twenty volumes. But the history of the History, now told for the first time, may revive attention to the "great work," or may not. Alison has fold it with frankness and in much detail. It is creditable to his industry, to his force of will, to his fervor as a partisan. It is a tale which may long be quoted to show how a man with no literary gift, with no adequate conception of the function of history, with superficial knowledge, without military or political training or aptitudes, without capacity for any but the most obvious reflections on the events he has to describe, and describing them in a ponderous and slovenly style, may win fame and fortune as a historian of the most difficult and critical period in modern

When he began writing this book, Alison was Advocate-Depute at the Edinburgh bar, a post of great labor which answers pretty nearly to that of Assistant District-Attorney in the United States, or in some of them. When he lost that office, he continued in large practice at the bar, wrote two Criminal Law," and became a contributor to Blackwood, for which he wrote during a considerable time, always one and sometimes two articles a though foreseeing a severe strain. all the attention and energies of the holder for five or six hours daily, and sometimes for twice that. He tried on an average 250 civil causes a week, lasting often till 9,or 10, or even 12 at night. He was responsible for the peace of the county, member of numerous official committees, conducted the education of his son, went much into society and entertained much at his own house. What was left of energy after this, he gave to his history-the dregs of his mind. Thursday and Saturday of each week were wholly occupied in court. Of other days his account is as follows:

"I rose at 8 and heard my son his tessons till halfpast 9. Breakfast was over at 10 and from that hour till half-past 11 I wrote at my History. I then walked in to Glasgow, which I reached at 12, and worked at my law till half-past 4 or 5, when I walked home and dined at 6. Petween dinner and tea I walked in the flower-garden, in winter read the newspaper or some light work, and at 8 o'clock I began again to write my History, and wrote till 10 and sometimes 11."

With all this he expected to finish the work in two or three years and four or five volumes. In treating of the Revolution his principle was to 'avoid all disputed points!" By and by he found out that he was in need of books. The public libraries of Edinburgh had few, and even by avoiding disputed points it was not possible to supply all the facts out of his own consciousness. He discovered that it was necessary to read carefully through several works relating to each period dealt with, and mark passages in them, even if they had only an in direct bearing on the subject, such as "statistical facts of value," or "geographical descriptions of countries or places treated of -nay, even "possibly quotations in prose or poetry which may be deemed ornamental. So he began to accumulate books, and as they in, creased his appetite for reading increased; not an uncommon occurrence. The final reason, however of the "necessity" under which he felt himself of buying reading is thus stated :

I knew if one of the race of critics had discovered in the corner of a public library an obscure book relating to this period which had not been referred to, he would immediately set it down as the most important that ever appeared on the subject, and hold up any work as deplorably deficient in reference to original authority, from containing no notice of it. The only way to guard against this

Nevertheless so vast was the subject " that I had often great trouble in understanding the subject myself"-the much struggling man !-" and the task of rendering it intelligible to others seemed at first nearly hopeless." At last the solution occurred to him to classify events and to tell one stor; at a time. And then our delighted author rushes off into a rhapsody upon the composition of history on this novel and surprising plan. He reflected on what Herodotus and Gibbon had done, and the great historical works of antiquity, with the help of a remark by Mr. Fox, convinced him that history might combine "the thoughts of the philosopher, the eloquence of the orator and the descriptions of the poct." Presently he felt equally sure that the fuscinations of romance might be added. Alison candidly admits that he found much difficulty in carlying these principles of composition "at the commencement into practice "at the commencement of the work." His idea of describing a

mirable reason that "enough was to be found in the undisputed facts of the struggle to condemn the Revolution." Most writers have found a difficulty in constructing a theory adequate to account for the Revolution and all its consequences. Not so

Alison: "While a firm conviction of the truth of the fundamental doctrine of Revelation as to the corruption of mankind appeared to furnish the true key to the crimes and horrors of the French Revolution, another decline of Christianity seemed to point equally clearly to the antagonistic principle which opposed and in the end obtained the mastery of it. This was the Divine superintendence of human affairs, acting through its means of free

agents. The first two volumes of the History were published in April, 1833. The edition was of 1,000 copies and Blackwood paid 250 guineas for them. Friends to whom Alison sent the first fruits of his toil replied with complaints of his style, in which Alison admits there was "some truth." But he regards criticisms on style as minute and trifling, as well he may. To the day of his death he never learned to write English. If he had allowed this trifling consideration to influence him the History would never have been composed. Neither The Edinburgh nor The Quarterly took the least notice of his two volumes. The Edinburgh made amends by a review of the book on its completion, "in a liberal and honorable spirit," but The Quarterly never broke its silence. Alison thinks this was because Croker, "whose influence in the direction of the Review was paramount," was chagrined at having had a subject taken out of his hands on which he had meant to write and for which he had made large collections, now in the British Museum. "It is doubtful," remarks Alison with mild vindictiveness, "whether Croker could have made a valuable History of the French Revolution." Croker, in his opinion, would have given himself the trouble of ascertaining by parish registers the day when an portant personage was born, and the ingenuous Alison roundly declares that this microscopic habit is dangerous at all times in history, but in that of the French Revolution would be fatal.

By and by comes another glimpse of Alison's theory of historical composition. He had reached the period of the great campaigns of Napoleon, and on this he entered with "incredible ardor." For

"I could afford to be graphic; the subject called for minuteness [not of the parish-register kind, I suppose]; its splendor invited description. Genius and success had stamped so great a character on events that the historian would be felt to be wanting to his theme if he did not paint them with the pencil of romance, heightened, where it was possible, by the colors of poetry !"

Written on these romantic principles the third and fourth volumes, which appeared in 1834, were "very favorably received by the daily press, more so, considerably, than the first had been. Two thousand copies were not thought too many to print; the sale of the first two volumes being meanwhile augmented. Less than two years afterward came out the fifth volume, and Alison thus describes the pace and process of his composi-

"The progress of my work had now become quite regular; a volume took invariably eighteen months to write, and as each, at an average, consisted of 900 pages, this was at the rate of fifty pages a month, or somewhat less than two pages a day, including Sunday, on which I never wrote."

But the average really was four pages a day written when I could get at it," for it now appears that the small debt court and tration court between them absorbed 150 days of the year, and so not more than half the working days in the year could be given to "literary pursuits." Carlyle thought himself happy when, at the end of three weeks, he had written and copied out in a fair hand two pages of his History. But, then, Carlyle was not

Not to linger over the successive volumes, each of which had a larger sale than its predecessor, let us come to the tenth and last, of which the composition and conclusion are surely among the surprising things known in literary annals. In May, 1842, Alison told Blackwood that he might advertise the tenth volume for the end of octavo volumes on the "Principles and Practice of June. Blackwood, with a manager's eve to theatrical effect, proposed June 18, anniversary of Waterloo, and Alison agreed, menth. Four years later, in December, 1834, he | manuscript had to be ready by the 7th. For ten was appointed Sheriff of Lanarkshire, an office days before that he "scarcely slept;" nevertheless, combining Judicial and executive duties, requiring "on the merning of June 6, the whole battle of Waterloo and second taking of Paris remained to be written, and I had only twenty-four hours to complete it." What in these stringent circumstances was human nature to prove itself equal to,

"Being determined, if possible, to come up to ime, I began on the last day of my labors in ; very business-like manner. I got my secretary Mr. P. T. Young, a most valuable and faithful friend; out to Possil at 10 in the marning of the 6th of June, and began to dictate the Waterloo campaign. With the exception of twenty minutes that dinner lasted, I dictated without intermission till 3 next morning. when Mr. Young was so tired that he could write no more. Upon this I sent him to bed and sat down ne of the last page, being the description of the second interment of Napoleon at Paris, ending with the words, 'No man can share the tumb of Alexander.' I went up to Mrs. Alison to call her down to witness the conclusion, and she saw the last words of the work written and signed her name on

It is impossible not to admire the indomitable logged energy of the tough Scotchman capable of lictating and writing for eighteen hours without essation. It is equally impossible not to wonder at the levity and thinness of mind which could thus deal with the conclusion of what Alison himself undoubtedly believed to be a great and serious historical work. By and by even Alison became rensible that this Waterloo performance needed doing over again, as did much else. To give him all due credit he was never averse to revising, rewriting and enlarging. At the moment, however, he is not only satisfied with his prodigious feat, but regards it with unconcealed veneration. The chapter concludes with a comparison between himself and Gibbon, and a bureque of one of the nobler passages in literature, that in which Gibbon describes the termination of his immortal toil.

HOW A NOVELIST PREACHED.

From The London Truth.

Charing Cross Hotel stands on the site of the Hungerford Market, as liungerford Market stood upon the site of the mansion of the impecunions Sir Edward Hungerford, who was represented there by a bust, or rather by the wig which crowned the bust—a precise reproduction in stone of the very wig for which the spendithrift Baronet had given £500. Hard by this bust, circa 1847, stood two youths as spendthrift and impecunious, of the genus loci, disconsolate and in a great strait. They were Wooiwich cadets, bound under appailing penaities to be in barracks at an hour now but too near. To get there on foot was impossible for lack of time—by boat, impossible for lack of time—by boat, impossible for lack of money. Therefore they stood most deject and witched under this bust, and opposite an orator who, from Therefore they stook most deject and whetered under this bust, and opposite an orator who, from an inverted tub, was preaching to a market crowd on the subject of charity. The sermon done, the preacher, like that Persian who was so moved by a sermon on charity that he rushed off forthwith to beg from the first man be met—the preacher, we say, similarly impressed by his own cloquence, went round with the hat, and presented it among the rest, to our two recess vialores?

spired the other. "Look here!" he said, in a harried whisper to his friend, "I'll preach while you hand round the hat—nod when you've got our fares." So saying, he sprang upon the inverted tub and preached a heartshaking sermon on the doom of the wicked! So spell-bound was the audience that his friend with difficulty diverted their attention buttle was to form a conception of it at some stage as that his friend with difficulty diverted their attention to his held-out that. At last, however, he was able to signal the news by a nod that it held their fares in half-pence; and the preacher, breaking short off in the midst of an impassionate appeal to his addence to escape from the wrath to come, sprang from the with his friend for the boat. This ready and rapt preacher was James Payn matel 17.] FRENCH PERSONALITIES.

GAMBETTA'S WOUND - DEATH OF LOUIS BLANC.

FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE. PARIS. December 6.

It is very hard to get at the real truth about Gambetta's hand. At the Russian Embassy they flatter themselves on knowing it. A secretary bribed, it would appear, one of Gambetta's women servants, and she told a tale which was dramatic and sensational, but which was perhaps also false from beginning to end. Her story is that a Smyrniote lady -a Jewess-who often drives into the woods near Ville d'Sonay with the great orator, wanted very much to see the Jubilee representation of "Le Roi s'Amuse." It was arranged that she was to have a place in the loge grillée or grated box which is, at first representations at the Français, usually occupied by Gambetta. But when she was buoyed up with expectation, and within half an hour of starting for the theatre, word was sent her that she was not to come. Nevertheless she went, and found the Countess de Beaumont, sister of La Maréchale Mac-Mahon, in the fauteuil she was to have occupied. No violent scene took place. But the disappointed lady vowed vengeance, and took the earliest opportunity to keep her oath. The truth would have come out, the story is, if it had not been for a fear that Madame de Beaumont might find it disagreeable. This "unattached" Countess has exercised a baleful influence over the Gambettist party. She is separated from Count de Beaumont, to whom is given the entire guardianship of two children born of the marriage. French courts of justice very rarely set aside maternal rights. Madame de Beaumont was the cause in 1869 of a duel between Prince Metternich and the Austrian Ambassador to the Court of the Tuileries. She has since studied art under Gustave Doré, and from being his pupil became his tyrant. Her mother, the Countess of Castries, was brought toruin by her. Madame de Beaument is vain and imperious. Her salon for three winters was an ante-chamber to the Bourse.

My belief is that Gambetta was on much less intimate terms with her than she and a mob of Austro-Hungarian Jews connected with the press made believe. As he goes on the principle of never contradicting anything, the lady and her Hebrew following from the banks of the Danube might assert fearlessly anything they liked. Parvenus of the Opportunist party who have not Republican souls were greatly flattered at any attention that she paid them, and attended regularly her soirées. She is a woman of some artistic talent, vain, imperious, and flatters herself upon having originated an idea which will make its way in France. It is for Gambetta to be to the Republic what Henry IVth was to the Calvinist party, in which he was brought up, and of which he became a leader at the age of

Madame de Begumont was certainly at the Fran gais on the evening of November 22. When I was in the salon I was informed of her arrival by many persons who saw her in the ground floor corridor. But she was not visible to the general public. The conclusion was therefore arrived at that she must have been in a loge grillée. Now, there was only one box, the grated screen of which was drawn up. She might, certainly, have looked in from a place in the cornice; but the probability of her having done so is too slight to be seriously considered.

However, tale or no tale, Gambetin seems out of danger. All those who are now, or ever have been, intimately acquainted with him, must be rejoiced at the favorable bulletins which have been issued within the last two days. Quiet is insisted upon by the doctors, of whom seven were in attendance last Menday. There are two wounds. At one time there seemed a danger of rescription of pus. But it has been got over. The whole Gambettist party was thrown in a heap by the pistol-shot wound. They did not dare to stir a step in the Chamber for a whole week. Hence the absolute calm in French politics for more than ten days past. The outer public was not much affected by the mishap. M. Rochefort and some of the menarchical journals kept interest alive by the circumstantial evidence in favor of feminine vengeance which they deduced from the wound. Great stress was laid by them on the facts that Gambetta is not awkward in handling firearms, and that he is not left-handed. Awkwardness is a relative thing. It should be remembered that Gambetta has only one eye, and that there are cirsumstances under which he does not take a right feens of objects before him. There is nothing in credible in the statement that he was holding the butt of the pistol in the left hand and trying with the right to force the barrel into the breach when the ball was discharged.

lovable, and great-hearted of men, Louis Blanc, has died at Cannes. His decease was announced today to the Chamber by M. Brisson, and the news of it caused a general and deep feeling of sorrow here. Louis Blane was a thorough gentleman as former character appear to the highest advanage when engaged in newstaner correspondence, n journalism there was no room for his gracious manner and exquisite wit to come into play. Where the entire man best appeared was in episites manner and exquisite wit to come into play. Where the entire man best appeared was in episites to elever friends with whom he was in sympathy. There was much natural charm in his style and great art. He did not indic rapidly, but thought a great art. He did not indic rapidly, but thought a great deal about what he terme I "la toilette de chaque idee." When he was engaged at "The History of Ten Years," his daily production was, he told me, very regular, but never mere than six pages. The moment he found his ideas did not come rapidly he got up from his desk and went to take a turn in a public garden near which he lived. He used to exercise his brain in another circetton, at the chess-board and was a match in playing chess with Grévy, Naquet and the violimist Erusi. Before his proscription he was a little of the dandy and very much a lady's man. One of the salons he frequented was that of Mine, Johert, sister of the Comte d'Alton Shée. He made the acquaintance of Berryer, who though intensely hostle to the socialism of Louis Blane, appreciated his chivatrous spirit and exquisite deicacy of feeling.

Louis Blane was the proudest of the proud. He was thin-skinned to a morbid degree, but easy to molifiy. A more faithful friend, attached and fond relative, and tender husband, I have never seen. Although his heart was wrapped up in his wife and brother, there was room in it for a crowd of other people. A most compassionate heart it was. The brother, there was room in it for a crowd of other people. A most compassionate heart it was. The people. A most compassionate heart it was. The people of the state of the people of the state of the people of the state of the large piace in it. He was the Don Quixote of that maitreated animal, the donkey, and often in taking his part at Brighton got himself abused by roughs. I had the privilege of being admitted to the home circle of Louis Bianc on a footing of intimacy. In a future letter I shall speak at greater length about his public life and private virtues. Louis Blanc was a Corsican and had a touch of the Corsican accent. His eyes and general physiognomy were very Southern. Passsion, when it swept over his soul, was strongly expressed in both. There were both softness and sweetness in the velvety brown eyes in his ordinary moods. Latterly the mouth showed bifter disappointment and incurable, settled sadness. His health for years was very bad. Since his wife's death he fielt alone in the world. She was a sweet-tempered, affectionate, and thoroughly spanies. was a sweet-tempered, affectionate, and thoroughly genuine woman, and a Teuton, but without German heaviness. There was a doge of shyness in her took which was very pleasant. She had a quick sense of the ridiculous and much quiet

A DREAM OF TREASURE.

From The oil Cuty Mizzard.

The ordinarily quiet little town of Franklin, up in Venango County, has a sensation just now which is indeed a sensation. Columbus prown, who lives in the First Ward, in Franklin, one day this week discovered a hoard of oil French gold amounting to \$27,000. For many years past there has been a belief that during the occupation of this part of the country by the French a large amount of reasure was secreted in Franklin, hear where the oil fort stood. Columbus Brown has a manua in regard to this treasure, and for years the thought of beto this treasure, and for years the thought of be tree, in an open field. So excited was he that he awake, only to find it all a dream, as usual. He arose, walked to the window, and there, before him in the field, stood the identical tree which he had seen in his dream. But he put it resolutely aside as a dream, as most sensible men would have done, and retired to bed and to sleep. He had scarcely closed his eyes till he was again in the field and digging at the root of the tree. He was informed in some man-ner, he cannot tell how, but by a man with a foreign accent and in a military uniform with a sword and sash, that if he would measure a certain distance from the centre of a rock in the run, due north, and then measure thirty-three feet due west from that point, he would find the treasure he had so often seen in his dreams. Early on Saturday morning he arose, and, procuring a tape line, went and meas-

nred as he had been directed in his dream. What was his surprise to find that each and every measurement brought him to the foot of the chestnut tree in the open field. Brown did not tell anyone

urement brought him to the foot of the chestnut tree in the open field. Brown idd not tell anyone about his dream, nor of the result, but during the day he went to Colonel Breakley, who owns the ground, and asked and obtained permission, on some pretext, to dig near the chestnut tree.

(2) and his son, a lad of sixteen, commenced digging at the root of the tree, and at a depth of something over six feet, about 4 p. m., struck something almost under the centre of the tree, which gave forth a metallic sourd. A further clearing away of the gravel and stones disclosed the sides or end of an iron box or chest. Wild with excitement they continued to dig until they had unearthed the chest or box, which was thirty one inches long, twenty inches wide and twenty-four inches deep, or about the dimensions of An ordinary trunk. Their united efferts could only turn it over, but could not lift it from the excavation. The young man was sent for a hampy and cold chisel, and the lid was soon removed. The sight which met their gaze was enough to turn the head of almost any man. The box was nearly two-thirds filled with gold and silver coin, tarnished and covered with sand and mould, but nevertheless gold. The coins are mostly French, but a number of English, German and Spanish are among the lot. They bear dates, 17:29, 1744, 1751, and various other dates, the latest of which is 1751, which is the same vear Fort Machault was completed. On a brass ruler found in the clest, the name "Joncaire" is plainly stamped. It is a well-known which is the same year Fort Machault was completed. On a brass ruler found in the chest, the name "Joneaire" is plainly stamped. It is a well-known fact that this was the name of the officer in command of the French troops. A careful estimate of the coins makes a total value of about \$27,000. The coins were placed on exhibition at the banks. The fortunate owner has been offered ten times that the fortunate owner has been offered ten times that the fortunate owner has been offered ten times that the fortunate owner has been offered ten times. their value for a single com.

THE BABY OF BETHLEHEM.

There came four folk to Bethlehein On Christmas Day in the morning— A child, a youth, and a woman fair, And an old, old man with silver hair— With gifts for the Babe's adorning.

Then knelt they down at Bethlehem On Christmas Day in the morning; And Spring had brought a crocus wild, And Summer a rose for the Holy Child, Gifts for the Babe's adorning.

And there they knelt at Bethlehem On Christmas Day in the morning; And Autumn gave Him her fruits of gold And a holly bough brought Winter old; Gifts for the Babe's adoroing.

So come ye all to Bethlehem On Christmas Day in the morning, And to the Holy Jesus sing, And bring the best that ye can bring; Gifts for the Babe's adorning.

F. E. WEATHERLY.

A PROVIDENT SUITOR AND A MORMON RO-MANCE.

From Lippincott's Magazine.

When the overland train reaches Ogden, the agitation of the female mind about visiting Salt Lake City becomes evident. There are always some ladies going there for the benefit of their health, and many more to gratify their curiosity; for, strange as it may seem, the Mormon stronghold is the great business, social and educational centre between Omaha and San Francisco. The conductor told us that there were always ladies bound for Salt Lake, particularly during the winter, when the climate is sainbrious; yet even in a large party the members of the fair sex felt a half-amused tropidation in preparing to inspect a society so entirely at

what, then, was our surprise to meet on the very day of our arrival a Philadelphia lady, a niece of an eminent Presbyterian divine, who had been residing in the capital of Mormondom for five years! She was a widow, whose extensive landed interests lay in Idaho, and who had found fine educational advantages for her children and a pleasant social circle for herself beneath the peerless blue sky and circle for herself beneath the peerless blue sky and within the circling snow-capped mountains that bound Zion. She lived in a double house with long French windows, surrounded by a blooming garden. The furniture was elegant and convenient. Church privileges were ample, and she had some friends among the Mormons. Her bête noire was her landlord, whose particular offence was his too great desire to make improvements and repairs upon her residence. His manners were very mild and pleasant; but he at has justified her antipathy by sending his first wife to ask her to be his fourth spouse. To free herself from association with him after this, she bought the house, when he coolly told her that what she regarded as andacity had been prospered by the Lord, and enabled him to seli told her that what she regarded as andacity had been prospered by the Lord, and enabled him to sell

at a profit.

The romance of Sait Lake City is the story of Libbic Young, and visitors are sure to lear it as an illustration of how love rules the world. I indic Young resided in Philadelphia. One of her rela-Young resided in Finiadelphia. One of her relatives was the second wife of Brigham Young, jr., and while visiting her her husband fell in love with Libbie, and Libbie became infatuated with him. She refused to marry him, however, unless he discarded his wives—an arrangement which strange to say, was agreed to. Brigham, jr., then made a settlement on each of them, and he and Libbie were married. They hved nappily until the death of old though ambition proves the stronger passion.

HOW CHINAMEN BORROW MONEY.

From The Sam Francisco Call.

When a Chinaman finds humself financially embartassed and needs money, he does not do as other people do, borrow it and either give a promissory mote or chattel mortgage as security for the same, but he forms what in Chinese is called an "owey." This is something which is peculiarly Chinese and requires a minute explanation in order that it may be clearly understood. The lowest "owey" is fixed at \$1 for each person forming it, and the highest \$200. For instance, it a Chinaman needs \$100 he will call on a number of his friends, not to exceed ten, and tell them that he wishes that amount of money and desires to form an "owey." If it is decided that it shall be a \$20 "owey." then five persons in addition to the originator combine. For the purpose of explaining the "owey" the originator will be designated as Sam, and his five friends as Yow, Yen, Kow, Chew and Hing. At the first meeting of the six the originator receives from each of the other five \$20, making up the amount he requires. This is a loan made to him without interest, which he must repay at the rate of \$20 per mouth. At the time this sum is advanced the other five bid for the privilege of the "owey" is then awarded to the one having bid the highest premium. Yow having bid \$1 premium, Yen, Kow, Chew and Hing each pay \$19, which is the amount less the premium, which waiting bid \$1 premium, Yen, Kow, Chew and Hing each pay \$19, which is the amount less the premium, and amounting in all to \$76; and if he adds the amount of this own contribution it will make a total of \$90, or equal to the amount letterst, allowing \$1 for each of the four who advance the money.

At the close of the first month Sam, the originator and the conservation over this system of

it will make a total of \$90, or equate of as interest, allowing \$1 for each of the four who advance the money.

At the close of the first month Sam, the originator, is, by the rules which govern this system of money-leading, forced to neity all who belong to the "owey" of the next meeting. At this meeting Yen, Kow, Chew, and Hing are the only ones who having no votee in the matter. At this meeting the premium of \$1 is again offered, and it having been awarded to Yen, the other a premium, Sam and Yow having no votee in the matter. At this meeting the premium of \$1 is again offered, and it having been awarded to Yen, the other three pay him \$10 each, and 8am and Yen repay their first monthly instalment of \$20 each. At the next meeting only three, Kow, Chew and Hing, can bid, and it having seen amount of premium is bid, and it is awarded to the first of the three named, the other two pay him \$10 each, while the other three, Sam, You and Yen pay him \$20 each. At the next meeting only two, Chew and Hing, are permitted to offer a premium. The one to whom the "owey" is awarded receives from the other four \$20 each, making the full sum of \$100. By this method the originator of the "owey" who obtains the money without Interest has the use of \$100 for one month, \$80 for four months, \$60 for three months, \$10 into mathematical that is, it any member of the "owey" one had \$20 for one month. In return for the new of the money he is forced to act as collector from the other members of the "owey," who are required to pay the monthly instalments of \$20. He also assumes a risk, and that is, it any member of the "owey" does not pay at the appointed that, he has to be responsible for the amount due. The has to be responsible for the amount due. The has to be responsible for the amount due, in the other members of the "owey," who are required to pay the monthly instalments of \$20. He also assumes a risk, and that is, it any member of the "owey" in the same preportion as the originator. This method of money-lending is in vogue amon nator. This method of money-leading is in vogue among all classes, and women often form "oweys" among themselves. When the slips of paper, be fore alluded to, are drawn from the bowl, it often happens that two or more contain the same amount of premium. In such an event the "owey" is given to the one whose slip is first drawn. The "owey" may be composed of any number not exceeding ten besides the originator, and the greatest amount that may be raised by such means is \$2,000. Whenever an "owey" is formed and the amount to be awarded to the originator is \$500, or in excess thereof, he is required to treat those who loan him the money, to a dinner not to cost less than \$2 a head. Oftentimes a high premium is bid for the privilege of the "owey "for each succeed-ing month, and this gives the lenders considerable interest for the use of their money.

BROADWAY NOTE-BOOK.

MEN AND THINGS THE COUNTRY ROUND. THE PERSONAL NOTES AND NOTIONS OF A BROAD-WAY LOUNGEST.

Here is a literal experience last Thursday night howing the miseries of the bobtail cars: A young woman, oo engaging about the black eyes to be refused, passed up her ten cent piece to be exchanged and five cents put in the box and five returned to her; a boy already at out ten cents of my own, knowing that the slatted floor of the car never surrendered any change; this last sfiver piece I had taken twenty minutes before out of a conductor's package on the same line; conductor No. 2 poked it back again with a motion of his lips as if to say, " Canada." Observing everybody in the car now to se looking at me, I bit my lip a little deeper, drew out a quarter of a dollar and poked it through; back came a package with two ten cent pieces and a five; I now gave the young woman five cents and for a fourth time went to the hole to get one of the dimes changed, else I must save given the company two fares, my own having been paid long before. A boy now discovered I had lost the riginal ten cents and volunteered to find it with a inally pulling up the slats and all the pretty feet also and triumphantly offering me the ten cents as if I ough to divide it with him, all the passengers looking expect antly on But here I discovered by a certain lamp upor the pavement that I was half a long square past my door, and the rain was pouring down, so I quit the car. every young woman who has her fare passed for her expressing the idea that I was a pretty mean fellow after all. I had walked every foot of the way from Fifth-ave, to Eighth-ave, for that horse car company and paid three fares instead of one, standing on my fee and giving amusement to the hot polloi.

In Twenty-third-st, near Seventh-ave., between twe ous churches, stretches for four hundred feet mass of broken flagstone pavement which was ruine many years ago by a fire that destroyed a block con-nected with the manufacturing operations of Garvey and the Tweed Ring. The city has some proprietary in terest, it is said, in the block. If not, the multitudes o people who have broken and sprained the ankles, falle on the sharp edges of the stones and incurred wound and blasphemies beyond record, ought to sue the private proprietors who have been permitted to maintain such a pitfall through snow and ice, mud and rain, to the limit of the human memory. A great fence erected beside it to accommodate the bill-stickers falls every week and adds its rows of nails to the enjoyment. In the deer cellars below tramps and housebreakers hide and steal the women in their houses. One of these last week hoked to death a poor old religious Sister taking care of a foundling asylum; the police could not find the the lot and maintainers of the broken pavement, or some day there will be a riot called there and an oppressed ueighborhood will be heard from.

Marshal Henry was removed not on the charge of insufficient ability but of sympathy with the Star Route not like Garfield people, was appointed to find another reason. Wayne MacVengh left on Corkhill a decided lislike to "Garfield gushers." The same day the new and little imputations are brought against Henry, the first bondsman of Brady is made one of the three super was smirehed to get his place with the insinuation that ance is given an office that is both legislative and executive over all the property in that District. For a the District of Columbia now and then. It was the model governed city on the globe two years ago; it is now carpet-bagged and scalawagged all over again

"The tendency of this age to Corners," remarked; friend to me yesterday, " is queerly shown in the famil orner on the Presidency. General Shorman and Mr Plaine are in some way kin and running against each other for the Republican nomination; the relationship Mr. Blaine's cousin. But Sherman's niece is the wife of Don Cameron, leading directly into the Pennsylvanh ring, while Sherman's brother John and General Sher whose interests in property, etc., have been of late be-friended by Senator Conkling, the corner-stone of the New-York ring. Add to this the fact that General Tom: Ewing has been a Democratic aspliant for the Presidential nomination, and that John Sherman took all the influence of Hayes's Administration he could get to nominate himself two years ago, and we have on the Presidency such as has not been seen for som coln, have family competflors for the Presidency.

the week when I met him near his hotel, and although he said the reporters had been trying in vain to get at with the Church, he took to make the control of them have broken hearts. She still maintains intimate relations with his former wives and frequently visits them, and when she goes to Salt Lake that he was going to leave the Army. He said he never felt better in his life, that he certainly had ten year Rocky Mountains, and then he said that the talk about his taking the Presidency at the loss of his \$15,000 a year, horses included, for the rest of his natural life, when he should have instead only four years at most of what he emphatically termed "Hell," was next to pre-

> Presidency in his time, certainly no military man like General Taylor or General Harrison or General Grant. Hancack he had congratulated on making such a luck escape from the office. Yet while the General wi around the hotel his friends were making the corridor resound with his availability for the office, sayir among other things, that while he would get the who slie vote, and that the grand old party would sing such rumpsey, see Tecumsch," and bring the old fellow int the White House with the drum and fife of the church nilltant and the church triumphant.

> No men who resemble each other outwardly would No men who resemble each other outwards young appear to have so little in common as General Sherman and his brother John, the latter (being two years younger. General Sherman was not a Republican at al in the campaign of Abraham Lincoln, while John was unning for the Republican office of Speaker the year Louisiana Military Institute, had to explain to a host of brigadiers and colonels that John was not an Abolitionist, and that they did not coincide. When Sherman got out of Louisiana, after Jeff. Davis had been made President, he found his brother John must become Senator in place of Secretary Chase. Attempts were made to bring General Sherman into the chief clerkship of the War Department, with a view to making him Assistan ceretary of War, but he would have nothing, not even a egiment, and preferred to go back to St. Louis and be president of a street horse railroad at \$2,500 a year Ic says in his Memoirs that Mr. Lincoln probably con sidered him inkewarm on the subset of the war. He was a civillan in St. Louis looking on when Lyon stormed the rebel State camp, and on that occasion the boy w is now a priest was thrown to the ground by his brother in-law and held there to keep the bullets from striking him. At last Sherman was offered a regular Army reg tment for the three years' service, and he took it out he had little faith at the beginning that the Northern ade would prevail.

The lecture of Andrew D. White on the efficiency of the German Empire seemed to draw the line between the English Parliamentary system of government and the American Congressional and Executive system, with the sellef that Germany would sooner adopt ours than the English, Bismarck having flatly denounced the so-called its measures in accordance with the temporary majority in the lower House. Mr. White rightly described the German Emperor as having done more than any man of our century to arrest democratic government by the his high bearing both in court and on the field. So the two systems of Frederick the Great and of Washington who lived abreast of each other and exchanged courtesles, are on trial. Mr. White might have said that the Emperor's domestic life has not continued in all respects this public example, and when he announced to "Augusta" in almost terms of affection his triumph over the French, there was a broad laugh on one side of every German face and glory on the other side. This old Emperor was actually alive and kicking before General Washington alive and a literal of the Presidential term of General Grant he was still on the battlefield in personal command of his army, and he would appear to ownerly as much to his good health and physical stamina as to any remarkable brightness of mind. He has made everybody a soldier in time of peace, and it is a common saying in Europe among tourists who want to go shopping that there is just one thing they can buy in Germany to advantage, and that is—a gun.

Talking to some theatrical managers last week, I heard

I was speaking to an American gentleman the other day about the atritude of an English audience toward one of the first literary men of his age, who toward one of the first literary men of his age, who toward one of the first literary men of his age, who toward one of the first literary men of his age, who toward one of the first literary men of his age, who toward one of the first literary men of his age, who toward one of the first literary men of his age, who toward one of the first literary men of his age, who toward one of the first literary men of his age, who they have had have had more than the public exerction—that seem to be inseparable from a personal command of his plays. "Suppose," I said. "your Longtellow had written a play and contained to have the pain and the humiliation—nay, the public exerction—that seem to be inseparable from a personal command of his plays. "Suppose," I said. "your

some strange varus about the profits of their business. One almost renowned theatre was said not to have made any money for several years; another almost equally famed, had never made any money at all; a third was drawing full houses and paying very nearly the entire receipts back to the stage. A celebrated star had gone on a spree, and the manager had seized all the money at the box window, amounting to about \$800, refusing to divide with his stars, and at another place the money that was made " on the road " was lost in the metropolis, the box turned mostly around and knecked the dime out tured and kept more money than any two in the legitiof my hand; I lost my temper with it, bit my lips and took mate line. A leading man who had exchanged from one theatre to another was said to be receiving \$600 a week

> Opinions differ about the Christmas trade this year ne alarmist telling me that the shepkeepers have not done so badly for years past, while a prominent shopkeeper to whom I related this alarm said it was all news to him. The tobacco trade is stagnant, no doubt, be-cause the manufacturers have rushed to the conviction that there will be an important reduction of taxes; and meantime the jobbers and retailers are running down their stocks very low, while at New Year's there will be further discharges of cigar makers all over the city. The dry goods commission trade has been duli because goods were too plentiful and the outer dealers preferred to be conservative. At the bottom of most of our miseries le the resolution of the farmers not to part with their crops and meantime they are running their faces for trades men's bills while the tradesmen must meet their notes, and hence the country banks are beset for money, which they draw from New-York city, making a stringency

The farmers are said by the financiers to be the only peculiar quantity to deal with, in that they have no means of general information or no shrewdness to obtain it, and sell or hold superstitiously necording to some by-word they have picked up, as for instance, " If we hold long enough the grain speculators will have to raise the prices." This idea seems to be entertained from Eastern Ohio to the Far West, and most of the farmers are in comfortable condition, with grain enough to feed their stock, with pork scarce and high, and hog-killing not over and with credit in the towns grudgingly given, yet not to be wholly refused when the merchant knows that the barns are full.

On the other hand, the prices of grain have been coming down, and the farmers are assured that it is always their best policy to sell as soon as they have threshed and dried, so as to be out of risk and at the same time out of debt. Between the farmers and the townspeople there is a helf grudge in a good many districts, arising perhaps from their inability to come together on any ommon plane of understanding. The manufacturers of farmers' machinery who are so numerous in the large Western towns are making poor sales, since the farmers have not the money and 'the manufacturers will not wall without note or day. Last year the farmers made the money and the speculators lost it, and the farmers are unwilling to take the current prices this year, but believe they can starve both the speculators and the markets

The eigar interest has become immense, chieffy through the operation of the tariff, and I am told by up. right men in the business that if the specific daty on foreign clgars was taken off there would be a discharge of a quarter of a million laborers in the different branches of tobacco in the United States. At present there is 25 per cent ad valorem and \$2 specific daty. ers say that the former they could dispense with and continue to make eigers profitably. Full free trade in igars would let in the poor-house and prison labor of Austria, to which our manufacturers consign the refuse obacco they cannot use at all in America, but where under cheaper labor the tobacco scraps are pasted together and laboriously rolled into doctored cigars which could be brought into the country as low as \$3 a

The labor problem seems to be the broad difference between European and American production, and yet the cost of living here in some cases innices the high wages of no sanitary or social advantage. Whole houses can England, while cities like New-York, insulated and with. give a tenement-house civilization. A man who employs his thousand operatives told me that the time was oming when there would be half a dozen bridges across the East River instead of one, and that Brooklyn afforded the only hope of cheap habitations around the metropolis.

Meeting Mr. Prouse Cooper, to my surprise, at the baths the other day, he said: "Are you not terrialy afraid of me, lunaffe as I am called?" "What is the cause of your said, " to do something for my poor kin and connections. many a man makes of trying to bring my ungrateful kin up to near my condition. None of them showed any bility, and they became my enemies because I can hold them up no further. Believing that I had a great deal ally threw me into an asylum. When a man has been locked up in an insome asylum," said Mr. Cooper, "he pronounced by the only infallible jury in the world, amely, twenty-four persons not one of whom is proved o be same, to, be perfectly sound by a vote of about

these cockney operas are being gotten up for Yankes consumption on the principle of Madame Tussand's waxworks, where the peers in their robes and the judges in costumes nowhere else. The veto of humor in Brother Gilbert is getting pumped very near to the bottom, and more wind than licture escapes, the wind being eaught on an frish harp that cannot but be meledious. As freland is two-thirds the imagination of the whole King-dom, Sullivan is nearly all of his partnership, and Madame Tessaud the other part.

The Yankee Plymouth diners do not mention the fact that Boston geese bring the best prices in the world at Christmas. They are 20 cents a pound to-day in New-York, and yield three pounds of goose grease, enough to cure the colds of all the New-England Fathers' Day crators. Pickled smoked geese from the German Baitic country imported here bring \$1 a pound. Everyor the camp fires burning there in time of peace as well 16 cents to 28 cents for poultry in New-York, it costs 100 miles from the city anywhere about 10 cents a

AN ENGLISHMAN ON HERBERT SPENCER'S CRITICISM.

From The Manchester Examiner.
We must trend lightly on the const-tail of a phiescapher, and not irritate him, but in Mr. Herbert
spencer's homily to the Americans there seems to
as to peep out now and then just the least soupeon of scrapings for talk's padding. Some one had apparently told Mr. Spencer beforehand that the people of the United States were mostly money-grubbers almostly dollarists (the dollar being a more deadly instrument than an almostly haif-crown), and Mr. Herbert Spencer has fitted on this preconception to many heads in New-York and Boston, and after the manner of philosophers loosely rounting about the world, plumed himself upon his perspicacity. Some councal spoon meat for the nutriment of Mr. Spencer's theory of the wild whirl of the Americans Spencer's theory of the wild whirl of the Americans to their graves appears to have been administered to that unilosophy by a Niagara hotel-keeper, who, probably a Yakkee himself, and seeing how the English philosopher's cat was jumping, informed the latter that the Americans only stopped one day at the Falls, whereas the good English lost themselves in contemplation of the mighty cataract, and run up larger bills for the landlord, and drank in much inspiration and rye-whiskey, and abode many days.

Evidence of this kind Mr. Spencer may get supplied with, on easy terms, no doubt, all through the states, if he cares about having it to distribute in his after-dinner speeches. As to the physical characteristics of the male population of New-York and Boston, we saw nothing much to distinguish them from the same class in Manchester or Liverpool, Indeed, barring their Yankee accent and talking rhythm, we should have searcely known that we were out of England.

I was speaking to an American gentleman the